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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/730,601	HEMMAT ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Thuy Dao	2192

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 June 2007.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 08 December 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
 4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application  
 6)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is responsive to the amendment filed on June 29, 2007.
2. Claims 1-26 have been examined.

### **Response to Amendments**

3. Per Applicants' request, claims 1, 2, 8, 16, 17, and 20 have been amended.
4. The objection to drawings, specification, and claim is withdrawn in view of Applicants' amendments.
5. The 35 USC §112, second paragraph rejection over claims 2-15 and 20-26 is withdrawn in view of Applicants' amendments.
6. The 35 USC §101 rejection over claims 1-7 and 16-26 is withdrawn in view of Applicants' amendments.

### **Claim Objections**

7. Claims 1, 8, 16, and 20 are objected to because of minor informalities. The Applicants added new limitations "*the planning department storing a list of the reserved resources on a computer readable medium*" without pointing out the supporting text/figure in the originally filed disclosure. For a proper prosecution record, the examiner respectfully requests the Applicants point out the supporting text/figure in the next communication with the Office to obviate a potential 35 USC §112, 1st paragraph rejection.
8. Claim 2 is objected to because of minor informality: in lines 5-6, the phrase is considered to read as - -through [[a]] the planning department - -. Appropriate correction is required.
9. Claims 16 and 20 are objected to because of minor informalities. In the last two lines, the phrase is considered to read as - -the planning department storing a list of the reserved resources on a computer readable medium.- - as recited in independent claims 1 and 8. Appropriate correction is required.

### Response to Arguments

10. The Applicants are thanked for a thorough reply. Applicants' arguments have been fully considered. However, they are not persuasive.

I. The limitation "*confirming the reserved resources*" (claims 1 and 8; Remarks, pp. 18-20):

After further consideration, the examiner notes that Kaelicke also teaches *confirming the reserved resources* (e.g., [0096], confirming that test resources, including personnel and test equipment, are scheduled and available for performing tests; [0166], monitoring and dispatch task 1010; [0206], investigating the availability of resources; [0246], ARC sheet update task 1424 regarding resource commitments to the development; [0269], identifying the availability of resources).

II. The limitation "*booking resources upon approval of the estimate by the customer*" (claims 16 and 20; Remarks; pp. 20-21):

After further consideration, the examiner notes that Kaelicke also teaches *booking resources upon approval of the estimate by the customer* (e.g., [0167], [0210], [0216], [0018], [0069], [0133], [0104-0105], [0147], and as set forth in (I.) above, i.e., confirming the reserved resources after the step of reserving/booking them).

Accordingly, the examiner respectfully maintains the 35 USC §102(e) rejection over claims 1-26.

### Drawings

11. Figure 2 (the replacement drawing) is objected to because minor informalities. These phrases should be amended as originally filed:

block 216, - -IT department gives feasibility and estimation data to customer -;

block 226, - -IT department performs requirements modeling in Discover phase -; and

block 228, - -throughout Discover, IT department confirms project is meeting estimates - -.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### **Specification**

12. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure. The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

In the instant case, the phrase in lines 1-2 is considered to read as - -A method for scheduling software releases for a computer system [[is disclosed]]- -. Appropriate correction is required.

### **Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102**

13. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

14. Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kaelicke (art of record, US Patent Publication No. 2004/0143811 A1).

#### **Claim 1:**

*Kaelicke discloses a computer implemented method for scheduling resources to be used in a software development project comprising:*

*a customer providing information regarding a software development project to be completed ([0066-0069]; [0136], [0139]);*

*a planning department initially reviewing the provided information and providing initial feedback prior to completing a detailed requirements analysis (e.g., [0016], [0055], [0070-0072]); and*

*the planning department reserving resources for the project based on the information prior to completing the detailed requirements analysis (e.g., [0024], [0027], [0080], [0104-0105], [0147]);*

*the planning department confirming the reserved resources throughout the detailed requirements analysis (e.g., [0096], confirming that test resources, including*

personnel and test equipment, are scheduled and available for performing tests; [0166], monitoring and dispatch task 1010; [0206], investigating the availability of resources; [0246], ARC sheet update task 1424 regarding resource commitments to the development; [0269], identifying the availability of resources); and

*the planning department storing a list of the reserved resources on a computer readable medium (e.g., [0096], 0165-0166], [0182], [0206], [0242], [0246], [0251], [0293-0294]).*

**Claim 2:**

The rejection of claim 1 is incorporated. Kaelicke also discloses *after reserving resources: offering the customer a contract describing the resources to be used for the project upon completion of the detailed requirements analysis through the planning department; and scheduling the reserved resources as agreed upon in the contract upon approval of the contract by the customer through the planning department (e.g., [0018], [0069], [0133]).*

**Claim 3:**

The rejection of claim 2 is incorporated. Kaelicke also discloses *completing the detailed requirements analysis: the planning department confirming the requirements analysis after reserving resources and prior to reserved resources during the detailed (e.g., [0095], [0196], [0208]).*

**Claim 4:**

The rejection of claim 2 is incorporated. Kaelicke also discloses *the detailed requirements analysis comprises: a functional requirements modeling step (e.g., [0018], [0027], [0196], [0211]).*

**Claim 5:**

The rejection of claim 2 is incorporated. Kaelicke also discloses *the detailed requirements analysis comprises: a system requirements modeling step* (e.g., [0028], [0104], [0187]).

**Claim 6:**

The rejection of claim 2 is incorporated. Kaelicke also discloses *the detailed requirements analysis comprises: an application integration modeling step* (e.g., [0016], [0089], [0100], [0138]).

**Claim 7:**

The rejection of claim 2 is incorporated. Kaelicke also discloses *the detailed requirements analysis comprises: a contract development step* (e.g., [0018], [0069], [0095], [0133]).

**Claim 8:**

Kaelicke discloses a *computer implemented method for scheduling resources needed for a project comprising:*

*a planning department managing a customer's expectations about the project based on preliminary information the customer provides to the planning department* (e.g., [0060-0069], [0136], [0139]);

*the customer approving the project for further analysis* (e.g., [0018], [0069], [0133]);

*the planning department reserving resources for the project based on the preliminary information and past experience* (e.g., [0024], [0027], [0080]);

*the planning department confirming the reserved resources throughout the further analysis* (e.g., [0104-0105]), [0147]);

*upon completion of the further analysis, the planning department offering the customer a contract describing the resources to be used for the project* (e.g., [0018], [0069], [0133]);

*upon approval of the contract by the customer, the planning department scheduling the resources agreed upon in the contract (e.g., [0024], [0027], [0080], [0104-0105], [0147]); and*

*the planning department storing a list of the reserved resources on a computer readable medium (e.g., [0096], 0165-0166], [0182], [0206], [0242], [0246], [0251], [0293-0294]).*

**Claim 9:**

*The rejection of claim 8 is incorporated. Kaelicke also discloses the managing of the customer's expectations comprises the planning department giving the customer an estimate of the likely duration of the project based on past experience and on the preliminary information provided by the customer (e.g., [0027], [0059], [0078], [0143]).*

**Claim 10:**

*The rejection of claim 9 is incorporated. Kaelicke also discloses the customer's approval of the project for further analysis is based on the estimate of the likely duration of the project (e.g., [0167], [0210], [0216], [0225]).*

**Claim 11:**

*The rejection of claim 8 is incorporated. Kaelicke also discloses the confirming of the reserved resources comprises determining whether the results of the further analysis indicate whether modifications are needed in the reserved resources (e.g., [0027], [0083], [0091], [0096]).*

**Claim 12:**

*The rejection of claim 8 is incorporated. Kaelicke also discloses the further analysis comprises a functional requirements modeling step, a system requirements modeling step, an application integration modeling step, and a contract development step (e.g., as set forth in claims 4-7).*

**Claim 13:**

The rejection of claim 12 is incorporated. Kaelicke also discloses *the confirming of reserved resources occurs at the end of each step in the further analysis* (e.g., [0096], [0259]).

**Claim 14:**

The rejection of claim 11 is incorporated. Kaelicke also discloses *if it is determined that modifications are needed in the reserved resources, alerts are sent to projects dependent on a project for which modifications are needed in the reserved resources, the alerts informing the dependent projects that further analysis may be needed* (e.g., [0147], [0165]).

**Claim 15:**

The rejection of claim 8 is incorporated. Kaelicke also discloses *the reserving of resources is aided by a tool that uses past experience and the preliminary information as input and produces an estimate of the resources required as output* (e.g., [0165], [0269]).

**Claim 16:**

Kaelicke discloses a computer implemented method for scheduling resources to be used in a software development project comprising:

*a customer submitting information about the software development project to an Information Technology (IT) department* (e.g., [0066-0069], [0136], [0139]);

*the IT department analyzing the feasibility of the project and estimating its cost* (e.g., [0027], [0059], [0078], [0143]);

*the customer deciding whether to proceed with the project based on the analysis of feasibility and estimate of cost; upon deciding to proceed, the customer prioritizing and funding the project* (e.g., [0167], [0210], [0216], [0225]);

*the IT department reserving resources for the project; the IT department modeling at least one requirement for the project* (e.g., [0024], [0027], [0080]);

*upon completion of the requirement modeling, the IT department giving the customer an estimate of the resources needed for the project (e.g., [0018], [0069], [0133]);*

*booking the resources upon approval of the estimate by the customer (e.g., [0104-0105], [0147], [0096], reserving and confirming resources, including personnel and test equipment, are scheduled and available for performing tests; [0166], booking resources and monitoring and dispatching resources; [0206], investigating the availability of resources after booking them; [0246], ARC sheet update task 1424, after booking resources, monitoring resource commitments to the development; [0269], identifying the availability of resources after resoucres after reserving them); and*

*the planning department storing a list of the reserved resources on a computer readable medium (e.g., [0096], 0165-0166], [0182], [0206], [0242], [0246], [0251], [0293-0294]).*

**Claim 17:**

*The rejection of claim 16 is incorporated. Kaelicke also discloses during the requirement modeling, the IT department determining whether the results of the modeling of a requirement indicate that modifications to the requirement are needed (e.g., [0027], [0083], [0091], [0096]).*

**Claim 18:**

*The rejection of claim 17 is incorporated. Kaelicke also discloses when modifications are needed, alerts are sent to projects dependent on a project for which modifications are needed in the reserved resources, the alerts informing the dependent projects that further analysis may be needed (e.g., [0147], [0165]).*

**Claim 19:**

*The rejection of claim 1 is incorporated. Kaelicke also discloses the reserving of resources is aided by a tool that uses past experience and the information submitted by*

*the customer as input and produces an estimate of the resources required as output (e.g., [0165], [0269]).*

**Claim 20:**

*Kaelicke discloses a computer implemented method for scheduling software releases for a computer system comprising:*

*planning a series of releases for a given time period, each release having an initial allocation of capacity (e.g., [0016], [0055], [0070-0072]);*

*reviewing information regarding proposed software projects and providing initial estimates of cost and duration for such projects to customers for approval to move into detailed analysis (e.g., [0066-0069], [0136], [0139]);*

*on receiving approval for detailed analysis for each project, reviewing the planned series of releases and the initial estimate of cost and duration for the approved project and reserving capacity in a release having available capacity for the project approved for further analysis (e.g., [0027], [0059], [0078], [0143]);*

*as detailed analyses and customer feedback change the scope of the projects approved for further analysis, adjusting the reserved capacity and, where available capacity is not present, moving the reserved capacity to a later release (e.g., [0094], [0147], [0155], [0158]);*

*as detailed analyses are completed and projects finally approved, booking the scheduled reservations in the releases (e.g., [0024], [0080], [0104-0105], [0147], [0169], [0180-0183]; [0096], reserving and confirming resources, including personnel and test equipment, are scheduled and available for performing tests; [0166], booking resources and monitoring/dispatching resources; [0206], investigating the availability of resources after booking them; [0246], ARC sheet update task 1424, after booking resources, monitoring resource commitments to the development; [0269], identifying the availability of resources after reserving them); and*

*the planning department storing a list of the reserved resources on a computer readable medium (e.g., [0096], 0165-0166], [0182], [0206], [0242], [0246], [0251], [0293-0294])*

**Claim 21:**

The rejection of claim 20 is incorporated. Kaelicke also discloses *reviewing the planned series of releases and the initial estimate of cost and duration for the approved project further comprises: reviewing the preliminary test approach as determined in the initial review, the type of lab required, and the available resources in the required lab* (e.g., [0018], [0069], [0095], [0196]).

**Claim 22:**

The rejection of claim 20 is incorporated. Kaelicke also discloses *reviewing the planned series of releases and the initial estimate of cost and duration for the approved project further comprises: reviewing dependencies with other projects* (e.g., [0069], [0133], [0018]).

**Claim 23:**

The rejection of claim 20 is incorporated. Kaelicke also discloses *reviewing the planned series of releases and the initial estimate of cost and duration for the approved project further comprises: reviewing the available workforce in the required areas* (e.g., [0167], [0210], [0216], [0225]).

**Claim 24:**

The rejection of claim 20 is incorporated. Kaelicke also discloses *prior to planning a series of releases for a given time period: receiving from customers estimates of total time required for proposed projects in the given time period; and, adding the received estimates to get a total amount of time for the given time period and dividing the time into releases throughout the time period* (e.g., [0027], [0059], [0078], [0143]).

**Claim 25:**

The rejection of claim 24 is incorporated. Kaelicke also discloses *the number and capacity of the planned releases is determined by the total amount of time received* (e.g., [0094], [0147], [0155], [0158]).

**Claim 26:**

The rejection of claim 24 is incorporated. Kaelicke also discloses *an extra percentage of time can be added to the capacity allocated to each release* (e.g., [0027], [0059], [0078], [0143]).

**Conclusion**

15. Applicants' amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to examiner Thuy Dao (Twee), whose telephone is (571) 272 8570. The examiner can normally be reached on every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 6:00AM to 6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Q. Dam, can be reached at (571) 272 3695.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273 8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 2100 Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272 2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

T. Dao



TUAN DAM  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER